

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 11, 2004. Claims 1-21 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 8 and 15, the independent claims, have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. It is to be noted that the changes made are purely to clarify what Applicants are claiming, and are neither intended nor believed to narrow the scope of any claim element. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 5-8, 12-15 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Japanese Kokai 10-042068 A (Yasumoto et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6,438,605 (Idehara).

In the aspects of the present invention to which the present independent claims are directed, both a facsimile member and an electronic mail address are registered for a single abbreviation number, and in a case where a one-touch key or abbreviation-dial key representing the registered numbers is actuated, and then either a key representing facsimile sending or a key representing electronic mail sending is depressed, either facsimile sending or electronic mail transmission to the destination in question is executed accordingly. That is, after the one-touch or abbreviation dial key (representing a destination) is depressed, a determination is made as between facsimile or electronic-mail transmission by means of actuating the key representing facsimile sending or the key representing electronic mail sending.

For example, Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus that comprises means for connecting to a public communication line, a scanner for reading an image, means for converting the image read by the scanner to have a predetermined format,

and means for executing a sending process to send to a server connected to the public communication line in a case where it is necessary to send the converted image as an electronic mail to the Internet. The claimed apparatus also comprises means for registering a facsimile number of a destination to which the image should be sent, for an abbreviation number, and for registering an electronic mail address of the destination for the same abbreviation number. Also provided are a key corresponding to the abbreviation number, a key representing facsimile sending, and a key representing electronic mail sending. The apparatus also has means for executing the facsimile sending of the read image to the registered facsimile number in a case where the key representing the facsimile sending is depressed pursuant to depression of the key corresponding to the abbreviation number, and means for executing the electronic mail sending of the read image to the registered electronic mail address in a case where the key representing the electronic mail sending is depressed pursuant to depression of the key corresponding to the abbreviation number.

In contrast, in the *Yasumoto* apparatus, it is, in fact, impossible to register both a facsimile member and an electronic mail address for one abbreviation member: instead, either a facsimile member or an electronic mail address is registered for a given abbreviation member. In this regard, Applicants note the statement in the English abstract of *Yasumoto* that the problem to be solved is to “register a telephone number *and* an electronic mail address to an abbreviation dial or a one easy step key in a coexisting state [emphasis added]”, which is the language upon which the Examiner is believed to be relying, but note also the rest of the abstract, which states that this is done “*by* providing a function for automatically discriminating whether the *one* registered in the abbreviation dial or the one easy step key is the telephone number of an opposite party *or* the electronic

mail address [emphases added]. " From a careful reading of the entire abstract, therefore, Applicants submit that it is clear that both types of numbers can be registered for abbreviation dials, and that both types of numbers coexist -- not at one and the same abbreviation dial, but in the same machine, with telephone numbers registered for some abbreviation dials and e-mail addresses for others. Applicants also represent that the Japanese text of *Yasumoto* itself makes clear that in fact, for a particular abbreviation number, only one or the other kind of number is registered for a given abbreviation dial.

When the one-touch dial key or abbreviation dial key in the *Yasumoto* device is depressed to select a destination, the machine is able to determine whether a facsimile or an e-mail transmission is intended, by discriminating the type of information registered for that abbreviation dial key (numerals, for a fax number, or letters or the like, for an e-mail address).

Thus, Applicants represent that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Yasumoto* that would teach or suggest any arrangement in which both the fax number of a destination and an e-mail address for the same destination can both be registered for a single one-touch key or the like, as in an apparatus constructed according to Claim 1, and for at least that reason, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Yasumoto*.

Moreover, even if *Idehara* shows all that it is cited for, such does not supply what is missing from *Yasumoto* as a reference against Claim 1, and that claim is believed to be clearly allowable over both documents, taken separately or in any possible combination (assuming that such combination would even be permissible).

Independent Claims 8 and 15 are method and computer memory medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

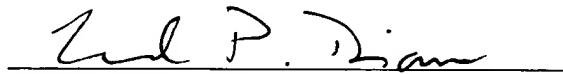
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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